Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Action Plan
For Online Safety
2018-2019

2019 Mid-Year Progress Report

gov.ie/besafeonline

1. Introduction:

The *Government's Action Plan for Online Safety 2018-2019*, was launched by the Taoiseach in July 2018.

The first progress report on its implementation was published in February 2019 and covered the first six months of implementation (July-December 2018) and is available at www.gov.ie/besafeonline. The second progress report, now being published, covers the period January-June 2019 and builds on progress made in 2018.

The primary objective of the Action Plan for Online Safety is to build safeguards at government level, raise awareness for all users to enjoy the benefits of the internet and what it can offer while ensuring that activities do not give rise to the risks associated with online safety.

The Action Plan involves a wide range of activities across six Government Departments:
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) leads on structured engagements by Departments with online platforms; and review of the Audio Media Visual Services Directive; and also provides the secretariat to the National Advisory Council for Online Safety
- Department of Education and Skills (DES) leads on schools policy development; Webwise; support for schools, teachers, students and parents.
- Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) leads on oversight of hotline.ie; legislative changes to criminal law; liaison with an Garda Síochána on implementation/enforcement issues; and disbursement of EU funding
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) leads on consultative engagement with children and young people, including through Comhairles, and Children First guidance
- Department of Health (D/Health) leads on the development of online mental health tools that augment existing services and implementation of Healthy Ireland
- Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) leads on oversight of the E-commerce Directive (2000/31/EC) and coordination of the EU Digital Single Market strategy

The Action Plan is based around five goals and sets out 25 specific actions (with 48 constituent actions), to be progressed over the eighteen month period (July 2018 – December 2019) of the Plan.

The five overarching goals are:
1. Online Safety for All
2. Better Supports
3. Stronger Protection
4. Influencing Policy
5. Building Our Understanding

A Sponsors Group established in 2018, representative of the six Departments, chaired by the Department of Education & Skills, continues to drive the implementation of the Action Plan for Online Safety. Functional responsibility for relevant policy issues remains with the lead Minister/Department. Progress on the implementation of the Action Plan for Online Safety is reviewed on an ongoing basis with publication of bi-annual progress reports to demonstrate implementation of the Plan with substantial progress being made. A summary of progress to date is set out in the following table:

Summary Progress to Date (July 2018 – June 2019)

Progress Report	No of Actions	Achieved	C/F to Q4 2019
July-Dec 2018	26*	23	3 (8.2, 9.1, 15.1)
Jan-June 2019	16	13	3
Total	42	36	6

* 4 of those actions are classified as "*ongoing*"

This second progress report, prepared by the Sponsors Group, outlines progress made on actions, and constituent elements, due for delivery in the first six months of 2019 (Q1 and Q2) and details achievements made during this period.

2. Actions due for delivery during the six month period Jan - June 2019:

A Summary of the Actions, mainly for delivery during this period, and their current status, is contained at Appendix A - TABLE OF ACTIONS FOR 2019 (Jan - Jun).

The Table of Actions comprises 16 main actions with 22 constituent/sub actions. Of these constituent/sub actions, 16 (which are linked to 11 main actions), were due for delivery during the first six months of 2019, with 13 achieved during this timeframe. The remaining three actions (13.1; 13.4; 14.2) are recorded as "*ongoing*". Significant progress has been made on delivering these three actions and their completion date has been extended into the latter part of 2019.

The Table of Actions also includes four other actions (16.1; 18.1; 23.1; 24.2) that are recorded as "*ongoing*". given the nature of the activities involved, which primarily centres on development of legislation.

More detailed information on the status of all of the actions is set out in the following section of this report. For ease of reference the progress report continues to be organised around the five Goals of the Action Plan for Online Safety.

2.1 Goal 1: Online Safety for all

- ➢ Create a single online access point for all information and resources
- ➢ Review, consolidate and augment resources to support online safety (children, young people, parents & guardians, teachers)
- ➢ Equip teachers to embed digital awareness and digital citizenship in their practice

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The 2018 progress report advised that a new online safety hub, **Be Safe Online,** has been established. This Hub is a repository providing links to all online safety resources and information available across the six key Government Departments. The Sponsors Group is continuing to ensure that all new resources, information and material developed during the period of the Action Plan continue to be made available through this online Hub. Its design and layout is currently being reviewed. The Hub can be accessed through www.gov.ie/besafeonline or directly at https://www.webwise.ie/youth/.

In relation to education resources, DES continues to ensure that there are extensive training and curricular supports and resources available to assist schools in the development of policies and practices on the safe use of the internet and on the prevention of bullying and harassment using the internet including the following:

- **Webwise**, an internet safety initiative co-funded by DES and the European Union Safer Internet Project, is one of the key educational resources, identified in the Action Plan, for teachers/schools/students and parents on online safety. While recognising that primary responsibility for keeping children safe lies with parents and guardians, Webwise promotes the autonomous, effective and safer use of the internet by young people through a sustained information and awareness strategy targeting school leaders, teachers, parents and young people themselves with consistent and relevant messages. Under the remit of DES it continues to review, consolidate and augment educational resources as provided for in the Action Plan. It also provides some general

information, and directs users to appropriate links, on screen time, protecting privacy, GDPR and data rights including the 'right to be forgotten'.

Webwise is managed by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), a support service of the DES. It advises that there were in excess of 1.39 million page views during 2018 with total users of 904,249. It has seen a 25% rise in the use of its resources and supports since publication of the Action Plan for Online Safety by Government in July 2018.

As set out in the 2018 Progress Report, the Webwise team has developed an online Hub for both Teachers, https://www.webwise.ie/teachers and for Parents, https://www.webwise.ie/parents, which continue to be updated as new technology and issues emerge.

Under the Action Plan for Online Safety, Webwise had committed to the development of a **Youth Hub** for Q2 2019. However, this online Hub, https://www.webwise.ie/youth, was launched in September 2018, earlier than scheduled, and provides practical information and advice for young people on key issues, popular apps and platforms and details of ongoing youth work and campaigns. It is a place where young people can source advice on internet safety issues and become more involved in making the internet a better place for all users. To ensure a youth voice focus, the Webwise Youth Panel members participated in the creation of a series of videos and articles on the website. The Youth Hub also directs young people to information and advice on a range of key internet safety topics including cyber-bullying and sexting. It will continue to be developed as new technology emerges.

- Student wellbeing and safety are an integral part of teacher education programmes covering initial teacher education (ITE) through to induction and career long continuing professional development (CPD) and the Department will continue to liaise with the Teaching Council in this regard. To ensure that ITE Providers are kept abreast of policy developments in the area of digital technologies in teaching and learning, DES and the Teaching Council, in October 2018, hosted an awareness raising event for ITE Providers focusing on the Digital Strategy for Schools and its key messages including the safe and ethical use of the internet. DES and the Teaching Council expect to host an event in October next for its teacher support services to discuss Cosán, the National framework for continuing professional development for teachers. Furthermore The Teaching Council has confirmed that it will continue to engage with DES and its support service, the National Induction Programme for Teachers (NIPT), to identify opportunities to integrate enhanced digital literacy in Droichead, the integrated professional induction framework for newly qualified teachers.

2.2 Goal 2 : Better Supports

- ➢ Curriculum Development
- ➢ Student participation in safer internet day activities
- ➢ Resilience, Peer and Mental Health supports
- ➢ Positive online content for children

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- In the area of curriculum development, **the Digital Learning Framework,** which guides schools on the embedding of digital technologies in teaching and learning, is in its second year of dissemination. Online safety continues to be referenced in the extensive CPD programme that accompanies the dissemination process.
- A digital media interactive resource for primary level was also developed in early 2019. This new Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum resource was launched by Webwise as part of its continuous promotion of the importance of online safety with parents, teachers and young people. The resource titled ***HTML Heroes: An Introduction to the Internet*** is aimed at 3rd and 4th class pupils. The resource promotes positive online content for children and contains eight lessons and is supported

by three animations which centre around two USB characters, *Archie* and *Ruby*, who perform catchy internet safety raps. This free resource will assist and support educators when teaching primary level students about the safe, responsible and ethical use of the Internet. *HTML Heroes* addresses new areas of technology use and concerns including respectful communications, safe searching, screen time, personal information and privacy, copyright, gaming, online advertising and social media.

As an online only resource, the new programme very much promotes the embedding of digital technology in teaching, learning and assessment, a key principle of the *Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020*. The resource also helps to forge links between home and school by introducing take home activities and parental engagement. All Primary schools in Ireland have been provided with information on the new resource and a copy of the animations. This new resource was awarded the most educative project at the European Media Literacy Awards.

- During Q4 of 2018 Webwise commenced a promotion campaign to drive increased participation by schools in the **Safer Internet Day** (5th February 2019) with the aim of increasing participation in the programme by a minimum of 20%. In January 2019, young people from all over Ireland came together to take part in the annual Webwise Safer Internet Day Ambassador Programme in Google Headquarters in Dublin. Over 130 second-level students signed up to become Safer Internet Day Ambassadors, promoting online safety in their schools, clubs, and communities. This peer-led initiative by Webwise has been running for the last five years and has proved hugely successful in promoting internet safety in schools around Ireland. As a result of those activities, over 140,000 young people signed up for internet day 2019 representing a 37% increase in participation over 2018. The Safer Internet Day is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people.

- To recognise the work being done by students, teachers and schools to raise awareness about online safety issues while also promoting health and creative uses of technology, Webwise, in 2019, launched the first **Safer Internet Day Awards** (SID). Open to all schools in Ireland, categories in the competition included best use of technology, best SID campaign, best use of social media and more. Over 1,200 entries were received. There were emerging themes such as device-free campaigns, misinformation, media literacy, respectful communication, image-sharing and how to manage online wellbeing.

  Some more information on the awards can be found at **https://www.webwise.ie/sidawards/**

- In the area of resilience and mental health, the D/Health continues to work with the HSE and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to deliver innovative digital interventions to promote mental health wellness and resilience and to deliver new ways of engaging in online interventions such as counselling and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT). The Department is also seeking to deliver pilot tele-psychiatry projects. These interventions will promote enhanced use of digital technology to provide more choice and alternative access options to treatment for individuals experiencing mental health difficulties.

- **Website & Signposting/Search Tool:** The new yourmentalhealth.ie website went live in October 2018. The revised site provides new content and personalised support options through an integrated search tool generating information on online resources, telephone and face-to-face supports and services relevant to a wide range of mental health issues. A performance review of the site conducted by HSE Digital found that site views had increased, that users were finding required information faster, and that search engine optimisation had improved significantly.

- **Telephone Contact Line:** During Q1 and Q2 of 2019 HSE Mental Health has sought to advance the establishment and operation of a single and stand-alone National Mental Health Service Telephone Contact Facility to effectively manage mental health service related queries emerging from the community. This service will operate on a 24/7 basis and will encompass (i) the provision of information about, and direction of callers to, the most appropriate national and local pathway(s) to care specific to the query raised, and (ii) where possible, the direct transfer of callers to the most

appropriate existing helpline partners and/or services as required. At present, a go live date within quarter 3 2019 is envisioned.

- **Active Listening (Live Chat. Instant Messaging & SMS)**: HSE Mental Health, working in close collaboration with SpunOut.ie/Community Creations, has engaged with Crisis Text Line, a leading US-based provider of instant text messaging support services, with a view to establishing their 24/7 active listening (**Live Chat. Instant Messaging & SMS)** text service in Ireland. The platform design and recruitment of all senior hires are now complete. A volunteer recruitment drive is commencing in June 2019. Following a limited 'soft launch' in July 2019 with populations generated from collaboration with *BeLongTo* and Pavee Point it is anticipated that a full public launch will commence in Q4 2019.

- **Telecounselling Pilots:** The HSE, working in close collaboration *Turn2Me.org*, is currently undertaking two **Telecounselling** pilot projects exploring the potential to develop the use of online counselling. All counselling sessions are conducted on a secure encrypted cloud based platform, and can be conducted via video, via Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone calls or via synchronous (instant) text messaging.

- **Telepsychiatry Pilots**: Four telepsychiatry pilots are now being undertaken in collaboration with videoDoc. These pilots encompass the conducting of remote psychiatric consultations to address the following:
    (1) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service waiting lists
    (2) Demand for specialist adolescent addiction and substance abuse service
    (3) Adult mental health service demands in a chosen Community Health Care Organisation (CHO) region
    (4) Demand for services for child and adolescents with intellectual disabilities

  It is envisaged that the first pilot will be operational in late June 2019.

- **Online CPT:** HSE Mental Health is working in collaboration with *SilverCloud* Health to conduct a service evaluation in relation to the use of Online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Programmes among a sample of 200 adults across four CHO regions.

- **Develop and Implement Dissemination Strategy (Advertising & Media):** The HSE has put in place appropriate advertising and media campaigns to support the roll out of various initiatives. Press, radio, print and social media communications are being prepared to promote the upcoming advertisement of the telephone contact line, and, in collaboration with *SpunOut*, the roll out of Crisis Text Line Ireland. Engagement between the HSE and D/ Health press and communications offices will be required as pilot work commences and begins to yield outcomes.

2.3 Goal 3: Stronger Protections

  - ➢ Legislation and Regulation
  - ➢ Child Safeguarding Statement
  - ➢ Strengthen links and processes with industry for removing illegal and harmful material
  - ➢ Work with Online platforms based in Ireland to advance online safety measures
  - ➢ Work with Industry to develop a guide for online platforms and interactive services to support best practice in online safety in design

- As part of the implementation of the Action Plan, in January 2019 the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs published an addendum to the **Children First Guidance** clarifying that organisations providing relevant services to children need to consider online safety risks in the context of preparing Child Safeguarding Statements. Tusla has also updated its template for Child Safeguarding Statements to

reflect this requirement. The **addendum to the Guidance** is available on the DCYA website www.dcya.gov.ie.

- The **transparency reports** referred to in action 14.2 (DCCAE) are a component of the draft Regulation being negotiated at EU level in respect of terrorist content. Transparency reports in respect of harmful but not illegal content will be considered once the work on such reports for illegal content is more advanced.

- In relation to the development of a **practical guide for online platforms**, DCCAE has prepared a draft approach on the delivery of this action following consultation with the Guidance Subgroup of the National Advisory Council for Online Safety and a detailed analysis of the UKCCIS guide. DCCAE raised the concerns of the National Advisory Council for Online Safety regarding the timeline associated with this action and the meeting of the Sponsors Group on 4 December 2018. The timeline for this action (Action 15.1) has been revised to Q4 2019 by the Sponsors Group.

- The **Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill 2017** completed Second Stage in January 2019. DJE officials engaged in extensive consultations with the sponsor of the Bill and with the Office of the Attorney General to prepare draft amendments. These amendments were approved by Government on the 1st May 2019 and have now been sent to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to be formally drafted before they can be introduced at Committee Stage in the Dáil.

- DJE hosted an event with industry on 16th May 2019 which addressed the constituent elements within Action 13. The aim of the event was to hold an open and frank discussion between the Department and representatives of industry, specifically hosting service providers, around the existing structures and processes in place to report and remove **illegal content**, how they can be improved and what a future framework for tackling illegal content might look like.

  In order to focus on the types of illegal content at issue, a number of expert speakers were invited to provide a context for the discussions. There were 40 participants in attendance, which included a broad representation of stakeholders from the technology industry and public bodies. The event was opened by the Minister for Justice and Equality and held under Chatham House rules to encourage an open exchange of views.

  DJE will take away the discussions and learnings from the event, and develop the Department's approach to tackling illegal content online, in consultation with representatives from industry, academia and other Government Departments as part of an ongoing, regular, structured process of engagement. The position regarding the sub-actions under action 13 is as follows:

  - 13.1 and 13.2 – Ongoing discussions are taking place between DJE and Hotline.ie in order to progress these actions regarding enhancing measures to support improved cooperation between Hotline.ie and industry for taking down child abuse and other illegal material and to increase Internet Service Provider sign up to the Code of Practice and Ethics. A revised draft of the Code has been prepared and this draft was outlined to industry at the event on 16th May. The revised Code is structured to be more inclusive of all types of companies, including social media, and the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland is currently in the process of drafting some additional revisions. All participants at the event were strongly encouraged to sign up to the revised Code.

  - 13.3 – An Garda Síochána are in ongoing discussions with a number of companies with a view to extending the Garda Blocking Initiative. At the event on 16th May, all participants were strongly encouraged to sign up to the Initiative. A draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Initiative was forwarded to all participants following the event and they were again encouraged to sign up to it. Additionally, DJE have scheduled a meeting with a representative group within IBEC in order to further discuss the Initiative.

  - 13.4 – The first quarterly report of the Inter-Agency Implementation Group on the Garda Inspectorate's report "*Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – a follow-up review*" was published on DJE's website in January 2019. The second progress report has been completed and will

be published on DJE's website once it has been noted by Cabinet. However, Chapter 4 of the Report, which deals primarily with online child sexual abuse material, is not expected to be addressed until the Group's meeting in September 2019.

    o   13.5 – The feasibility of proactively engaging for searches for images and videos of child sexual abuse material online was discussed by DJE with industry at the event on 16th May and will form part of the developing approach to tackling illegal content online.

- In relation to illegal and harmful content (Action 14.2) DJE are working with industry on a number of fronts in order to publish regular transparency reports in relation to illegal content.

  Hotline.ie, operated by the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (ISPAI) with oversight from DJE, publishes annual reports containing information and statistics on its activities in relation to the takedown of illegal material from the internet. Hotline's annual report for 2018 is expected to be published in Q3 2019.

  At EU level there is reporting in relation to the takedown of online hate speech with information provided for different Member States including Ireland. Ireland participates in the EU Internet Forum in relation to online terrorist content.

  Ireland is a signatory to the Christchurch Call and was represented at a follow-up meeting under the auspices of the Aqaba initiative.

  As part of DJE's review of frameworks and processes relating to illegal content online, the issue of publication of regular transparency reports will be examined.

  DJE also fully participated in the negotiations on the Proposed Regulation for the Prevention of the Dissemination of Terrorist Content Online, the draft of which includes provisions for regular transparency reporting.

2.4 Goal 4: Influencing Policy

- ➢ European Union & international partners
- ➢ Regulation of on-Demand Services
- ➢ Digital Safety Commissioner Bill

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- DJE is actively working with EU and international partners to influence policy and ensure that regulatory, technological and self-regulatory responses are developed in respect of illegal content.

  DJE deals with the EU Internet Forum which brings together EU Home Affairs Ministers, the internet industry and other stakeholders to work together in a voluntary partnership to address the misuse of the internet by terrorist groups. The Forum has two key objectives: to reduce availability of and accessibility to terrorist content online and to empower civil society partners to increase the volume of effective alternative narratives online.

  Ireland has signed up to the **Christchurch Call,** which outlines collective, voluntary commitments from Governments and online service providers intended to address the issue of terrorist and violent extremist content online and to prevent the abuse of the internet as occurred in and after the Christchurch attacks.

  Ireland attended the most recent meeting of the Aqaba Process in June 2019, where the follow-up to the Christchurch Call was discussed. The **Aqaba Process** is a series of international meetings launched by King Abdullah of Jordan in 2015 to bolster security and military cooperation,

coordination and exchange of expertise among regional and international partners to counter terrorism.

- Ireland's contribution to the **WePROTECT** Global Alliance National Reporting Survey for 2017/2018 has been published on DJE's website. Any issues/gaps arising from the Report will be addressed by the Inter-Agency Implementation Group on the Garda Inspectorate's report "Responding to Child Sexual Abuse – a follow-up review".

- The final text of the **Audiovisual Media Services Directive** was published on 29 November 2018. The 21 month timeframe for implementation is challenging and this has been flagged by DCCAE to the European Commission.

- An Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill, which will also transpose the revised Audio Visual Media Services Directive, is being prepared by DCCAE. The Bill will provide for the establishment of a national system of oversight of online platforms, to be implemented by a regulatory authority, i.e. an Online Safety Commissioner, with enforcement powers, which will ensure that these services have measures in place to keep users safe online. The Bill will seek to protect Irish residents using online platforms based in Ireland and implement the provisions of the revised Directive in relation to video sharing platform services, on an EU wide basis. Where responses are developed in respect of illegal content (for example transparency reports in respect of illegal content) consideration will be given as to how they might be applied to harmful content as well. (**See Section 3 "Other key developments" b**elow).

2.5 Goal 5: Building Our Understanding

➢ Publish an annual safer internet report
➢ Consult with Children and Young People

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- **DCCAE:** In order to ensure the greatest exposure for all material related to Online Safety the **Annual Safer Internet Day** report was combined with the annual report of the National Advisory Council for Online Safety. The Council published its first progress report on 5 February 2019 to coincide with Safer Internet Day. The report is available on the website of DCCAE. The progress report highlighted the Council's recent work, including:

  o The establishment two subgroups, one to examine issues relating to online safety guidance and one to examine issues relating to online safety research

  o The adoption of a proposed approach to the development of a practical guide for online safety in design

  o The adoption of recommendations to the Sponsor's Group regarding the operation of the single online portal for online safety information, www.besafeonline.ie, and,

  o The adoption of a proposal to conduct a phased research project on online safety during 2019 to provide an Irish research base which can inform policy making and further research

- Webwise works with a dedicated Youth Panel made up of around 30 second-level students from across Ireland. The Youth panel assists and provides feedback on education resources at various stages of development, the Youth Panel also assists in development of campaign messages and videos and assists the Webwise team in long-term project and topic planning. The Webwise Youth Panel was instrumental in the development and creation of the Webwise Youth Hub (referenced

under Goal 1 above) The students assist in creating videos to help parents understand popular social media apps and sites and also offer tips and advice to peers on managing their online lives.

3. Other key development (s)

Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill

Two key actions (17 and 18) assigned to DCCAE by the Action Plan relate to developing a Government response to the issues raised by the Digital Safety Commissioner Bill 2017, i.e. the regulation of harmful online content, and the transposition of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

The development of an Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill encompasses and consolidates these actions.

On 4 March 2019 Minister Richard Bruton announced new proposals for legislation to tackle the spread of harmful online content and launched a public consultation seeking views on what shape this legislation should take.

Broadly speaking, the **Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill** will introduce a new system for the regulation of "harmful online content" in Ireland. It will also update the existing regulatory systems for Television Broadcasting Services and On-demand Audiovisual Media Services such as the RTÉ Player or Apple's film & TV store.

Parts of these new and updated systems will come from the implementation of the recently agreed revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive. This is a European Union law which sets minimum rules and standards across the EU for Audiovisual Media Services, including Video Sharing Platform Services (VSPS) such as YouTube, Television Broadcasting Services (TV) and On-demand Audiovisual Media Services (ODAVMS).

The public consultation closed on 15 April 2019. A wide and varied range of responses were received to the consultation, from members of the public, NGOs, industry and government agencies. These responses are currently being considered to inform the development of legislation and a response to the consultation submissions will be published in due course.

A number of complex issues have been identified in relation to the Bill, which will require in-depth legal and policy examination.

Appendix A - TABLE OF ACTIONS FOR 2019 (Jan - Jun)

Goal 1: - Online Safety for All					

	Action	Constituent elements	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Achieved/ Not achieved	Comment
2.		**We will review, consolidate and augment resources to support online safety**				
	2.1	Develop Webwise - Youth Hub, in consultation with the youth panellists, and linked to the single online platform, which will act as a central point for representing the student voice in online safety. Features will include information on new and trending apps and advice on safe online communication; Safety and privacy; and data rights/ right to access/'right to be forgotten'	DES DCYA DJE	Q2 2019	Achieved	
	2.2	Review, consolidate resources and content for parents and guardians and address gaps including helping to develop: - resources for parents of pre-school age children, and, - guidance on appropriate amounts of 'screentime' for each age group	DES DCYA	Q4 2018	Achieved	The development of resources is an ongoing process having regard to the emergence of new technologies
3.		**Equip teachers to embed digital awareness and digital citizenship in their practice**				
	3.2	Engage with the Teaching Council to identify opportunities to integrate enhanced digital literacy in *Droichead*, the induction framework for new teachers, and *Cosán*, the national framework for teachers training	DES	Q1 2019	Achieved	.

Goal 2 - Better Supports						
Action		Constituent elements	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Achieved/ Not achieved	Comment
5.		**Curriculum Development**				
	5.1	Publish a digital media literacy interactive resource for primary level	DES	Q1 2019	Achieved	
7.		**Support student participation in safer internet day activities and peer-to-peer initiatives**				
	7.1	Support safer internet day 2019, including by: • Promoting the safer internet day ambassador programme • Increasing participation in the programme by a minimum of 20% • Targeting over 110,000 students for safer internet day 2019; and • Launching a safer internet day awards programme.	DES	Q1 2019	Achieved	
8.		**We will develop online and telephone signposting tools and explore the provision of remote online supports for mental health.**				
	8.3	Explore the provision of additional online support for people with mental health concerns and will • examine the feasibility of hosting online therapeutic interventions • create a pilot mental health hub in a primary care centre to provide remote online counselling services	D/Health	Q4 2018	Achieved	Work in this area is continuing

Goal 2 - Better Supports					
Action		**Constituent elements**	**Responsible Departments**	**Timeline**	**Achieved/ Not achieved**	**Comment**
	8.4	Develop advertising and media strategies for a digital health support suite	D/Health	Q1 2019	Achieved	It is proposed that media and advertising will focus on two key dates in 2019. The Crisis Text Line will be launched on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10th). The National 'Yourmentalhealth' information line be launched to coincide with World Mental Health Day on October 10th. There will be national advertising of both supports.
10.		**In line with the EU better internet for kids strategy, we will promote best practice standards for quality content for children**				
	10.1	Consider ways to promote positive online content for children.	All departments through Sponsors Group	Q1 2019	Achieved	

Goal 3 - Stronger Protections						
Action		**Constituent element**	**Responsible Departments**	**Timeline**	**Achieved/ Not achieved**	**Comment**
11.		We will legislate for new criminal offences with the support of the Oireachtas				
	11.1	We will assist with Private Members legislation for new criminal offences of harassment online or through digital communication; stalking; the non-consensual distribution of intimate images with intent to cause harm; and the taking and distribution of intimate images without consent as recommended by the law reform commission in its report on harmful communications and digital safety	DJE	Q2 2019	Achieved	Achieved for Q2 2019 but an ongoing process. The Bill completed Second Stage in January 2019. DJE officials engaged in extensive consultations with the sponsor of the Bill and the Office of the Attorney General to prepare draft amendments. These amendments were approved by Government on the 1st May 2019 and have now been sent to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to be formally drafted before they can be introduced at Committee Stage in the Dáil
12.		**We will ensure that on-line safety is specifically accounted for in statutory child safeguarding statements**				
	12.2	We will amend the Children First guidance to include a specific reference to the need to consider online safety in the context of completing the child safeguarding statement	DCYA	Q2 2019	Achieved	
13.		**We will strengthen links and processes with industry for removing illegal and harmful material**				
	13.1	We will review with the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland the Code of Practice and Ethics for their internet service provider member companies with a view to enhancing measures to support improved cooperation between hotline.ie and industry for taking down child abuse and other illegal material	DJE	Q1 2019	Ongoing	ISPAI/Hotline.ie have drafted a revised Code of Practice and Ethics in consultation with DJE

	Action	Constituent elements	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Achieved/ Not achieved	Comment
	13.3	We will engage with providers to extend the Garda blocking initiative to those providers with the largest share of the market	DJE	Q2 2019	Achieved	While achieved for Q2 2019 this is an ongoing action. An Garda Síochána (AGS) are in ongoing discussions with a number of companies with a view to expanding the Garda Blocking Initiative. Industry representatives were encouraged to engage with AGS in relation to this matter during a consultation event with industry hosted in DJE in May 2019
	13.4	The inter-agency implementation group will undertake and complete its appraisal of the Garda Inspectorate's recommendations in its report "responding to child sexual abuse - a follow-up review" with particular reference to those concerning online child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation	DJE	Q2 2019	Ongoing	The second progress report of the inter-agency implementation group will be published on DJE's website once it has been noted by Cabinet. However, Chapter 4 of the Report, which deals primarily with online child sexual abuse material, is not expected to be addressed until the Group's meeting in September 2019
	13.5	We will explore the feasibility of proactively engaging in searches for images and videos of child sexual abuse material online	DJE	Q2 2019	Achieved	While achieved for Q2 2019, this is an ongoing action. The feasibility of proactively engaging for searches for images and videos of child sexual abuse material online was discussed by DJE with industry at the event on 16th May and will form part of the developing approach to tackling illegal content online

Goal 3 - Stronger Protections

Goal 3 - Stronger Protections						
Action		**Constituent elements**	**Responsible Departments**	**Timeline**	**Achieved/ Not achieved**	**Comment**
14.		**We will work with online platforms based in Ireland to advance online safety measures**				
	14.2	We will work with industry to publish regular transparency reports in relation to illegal and harmful content	DCCAE DJE	Q1 2019	Ongoing	The transparency reports referred to in this action are a component of the draft Regulation being negotiated at EU level in respect of terrorist content. Transparency reports in respect of harmful but not illegal content will be considered once the work on such reports for illegal content is more advanced. **DJE** are working with industry on a number of fronts in order to publish regular transparency reports in relation to illegal content, as detailed above. The proposed Regulation on the Prevention of the Dissemination of Terrorist Content Online will require transparency reporting and will inform **DJE**'s review of frameworks and processes in this area.

	Goal 4: Influencing Policy					
Action		**Constituent elements**	**Responsible Departments**	**Timeline**	**Achieved/ Not achieved**	**Comment**
16.		**We will work with EU and international partners to actively promote online safety**				
	16.1	Recognising that many of the legal and jurisdictional challenges in the online space require EU or wider international approaches, we will seek to ensure in conjunction with our EU partners, that regulatory, technological and self-regulatory responses developed in respect of illegal content, are applied where appropriate to harmful content	DJE DCCAE DBEI	Ongoing		**DCCAE** is developing an Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill, which will also transpose the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive. Where responses are developed in respect of illegal content (for example transparency reports in respect of illegal content) consideration will be given as to how they might be applied to harmful content as well. **DJE** is actively working with EU and international partners to influence policy and ensure that regulatory, technological and self-regulatory responses are developed in respect of illegal content. This includes the EU Internet Forum, the Christchurch Call and the Aqaba Process, as detailed above.
	16.2	Publish Ireland's 2017/2018 WePROTECT global alliance report and identify gaps and prioritise national efforts to address them	DJE	Q1 2019	Achieved	
18.		**We will work with the Joint Oireachtas Committee in relation to the Digital Safety Commissioner Bill 2017**				
	18.1	We will work with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to explore the issues arising in relation to the Digital Safety Commissioner Bill 2017.	DJE DCCAE DBEI	Ongoing	Ongoing	An Online Safety & Media Regulation Bill, which will also transpose the revised Audio Visual Media Services Directive, is being prepared.

Goal 5 - Building our Understanding						
Action		Constituent elements	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Achieved/ Not achieved	Comment
19.		**Publish an annual safer internet report**				
	19.1	To coincide with Safer Internet Day, we will publish an annual safer internet report for Ireland detailing statistics, resources available, and findings from relevant research including relevant summary data from Growing Up in Ireland as it becomes available	DCCAE DCYA	Q1 2019	Achieved	
21.		**Support the implementation of the Action Plan through consultation with Children and Young People**				
	21.1	As informed by the Sponsors Group, we will consult with children and young people through Hub na nÓg, Young Voices in Decision Making	DCYA DES	Q1 2019	Achieved	Achieved for Q1 2019 but an ongoing action.

Making It Happen						
Action/ Sub-action		Constituent element	Responsible Departments	Timeline	Achieved/ Not achieved	Comment
23.		**We will ensure political oversight of the implementation of this plan**				
	23.1	Reporting on action plan via a Cabinet Committee chaired by the Taoiseach • A Minister of State will be tasked with ensuring an effective link between the political system, Government Departments, and external stakeholders. • Oversight of Action Plan implementation by a Cabinet Committee chaired by the Taoiseach	SPONSORS GROUP	Ongoing		
24.		**We will reconstitute government and stakeholder structures to support delivery of this action plan**				
	24.2	DJE will retain responsibility for hotline.ie and the criminal aspects on online safety	DJE	ONGOING		DJE continues to have oversight Hotline.ie and are working together to publish a revised Code of Practice and Ethics and the 2018 Annual Report. DJE also administers the EU funding allocated to Hotline.ie.